

Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
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NASA Partners With Orbital Sciences For Space Transport Services

NASA has selected Orbital Sciences Corporation of Dulles, Va., to develop and demonstrate commercial orbital transportation services that could open new markets and pave the way for contracts to launch and deliver crew and cargo to the International Space Station.

NASA and Orbital Sciences signed a funded Space Act Agreement under the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services Project, known as COTS. The new partner will receive approximately \$170 million in federal funds to supplement its privately-funded efforts.

Orbital's proposal was based on use of its Taurus II expendable launch vehicle, a new rocket currently being designed for COTS, NASA science spacecraft, and non-NASA customers.

Following six months of intense work by Wallops personnel, including the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS), to address technical, infrastructure, safety, environmental and financial requirements, Orbital has announced that Wallops Flight Facility is their choice for a launch site for early COTS demonstrations. During this process, Wallops moved from being a back-up alternative, to Orbital's preferred East Coast launch site.

Orbital managers were highly complimentary of the quality of the Taurus II study results provided by WFF/MARS, as well as the lower costs associated with needed infrastructure improvements. Most importantly they were well pleased with the responsiveness of the Wallops team in addressing their needs.

The selection of Wallops as a launch site is a major accomplishment for the Facility, and the result of high-caliber, hard work by personnel across many Wallops organizations.

Through COTS, NASA is facilitating U.S. private industry development of reliable, cost-effective access to low Earth orbit.

NASA is providing approximately \$500 million to stimulate the commercial space transportation market and help develop safe, reliable and cost-effective access to and from low Earth orbit.

"Our investment in the space transportation industry holds just as much promise for the future as government's investment in the railroads and airlines produced in the past," said Alan Lindenmoyer, manager of the Commercial Crew and Cargo Program Office at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

"Like any wise investor would, we chose a transportation provider whose innovative concept is based on solid engineering and a sound business plan."

The Space Act Agreement establishes milestones and objective criteria to assess the company's progress throughout Phase 1 of the COTS Project. Partners with funded agreements receive payment for achieving agreed-upon milestones.

In Phase 1, companies will demonstrate one or more of four capabilities: external, unpressurized cargo delivery and disposal; internal, pressurized cargo delivery and disposal; internal, pressurized cargo delivery and return; and an option for crew transportation. NASA plans to purchase cargo resupply services competitively in Phase 2.

For more information about the COTS Project, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/directorates/esmd/cc>



Orbital Artist's Rendition

Wallops Shorts.....

On the Road

John Brinton, NASA Sounding Rockets Program Office, served as a judge for the Worcester County (Md.) Public Schools' annual TECH FEST on February 12 at Snow Hill Middle School.

Betty Flowers and Rebecca Hudson, NASA Public Affairs Office, participated in a Career Day event for Broadwater Academy and Northampton High School (NHS) students at NHS, Eastville, Va., on February 13.

Keith Koehler, NASA Public Affairs Office, took part in a Goddard Day event in Annapolis, Md., for Maryland Congressional members on February 21.

Josh Bundick, NASA Environmental Office, participated in a Career Day event at Pungoteague Elementary School, Melfa, Va., on February 22.

Certification

Congratulations to Dawna Marr, Computer Sciences Corporation, who has earned the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification

Aquarius Team Receives Award



Photo by Lee Wingfield

(Left to right) Henry Hart, Con Duer, Greg Waters, Brian Richardson, Terry Tinker, Alex Coleman, and Neil Martin.

Neil Martin, Aquarius Instrument Manager, recently presented awards to Wallops Electrical Engineering Branch personnel, for supporting the development of critical electrical harnesses.

The Aquarius Mission will answer fundamental questions about the global cycling of water and ocean circulation's response to global change. Aquarius also will measure global ocean radiometric emission which is influenced by surface salinity.

Wallops ECO Club

February 27

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Building E-109, Room 112

Energy Conversion, Electricity
Conservation, Extreme Cooking

Efficient Combustion, Ethanol
Consumption, Educated Conversations

Exotic Contraptions, Earth Cookies,
Enlightened Consumers

Retirement Planning At Any Age

March 6 - 7

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Building E2 Training Room

Registration through Saturn

For Sale

AKC Golden Retriever puppies, born
February 9, accepting deposits. Call
Teena (757) 336-2477 after 5 p.m.

NSROC Mentors for FIRST

As part of NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract's (NSROC) educational outreach effort, three co-op students, Tyler Boehmer, Alex Pini, and Alex Malone are assisting Arcadia High School's robotics team in preparations for an upcoming FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC).

FRC is designed to help high-school-aged students discover how interesting and rewarding a career in engineering and research can be. The team of 10 Arcadia students, three faculty members and their NSROC mentors have been meeting four days a week at the school in Oak Hall, Va., designing and building their entry.

The competition challenges teams to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules.

The actual competition takes place March 6 - 8 at the Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va., and involves 64 teams from across the U.S. competing in an obstacle style course, lifting 10 pound balls and moving them about the course to earn points.



Alex Malone Photo

Alex Pini, NSROC co-op student from Penn State University, strips wires from an air compressor to be attached to a power block.

Wallops Golf League



The Wallops Golf League will be forming soon. Play will be on Tuesdays at Great Hope Golf Course, Westover, MD, beginning approximately the week of March 9.

There is a \$20 fee to join the league. A \$15 greens fee is payable at the course each day you play. This includes nine holes of golf and cart fee. There are usually three or four organized tournaments throughout the golf year.

Anyone interested in signing up for the 2008 season should contact Brett Mariner by email at brett.g.mariner@nasa.gov



Berit Bland Photo

Student Eric Cole, a senior at Thomas Worthington (Ohio) High School, runs a tensile strength test on balloon material. Andrew Benskey, a senior at the same school, also is here for the eight week internship. Cole and Benskey are assigned to the Mechanical Systems Branch.

Words to Live By

"There are two
ways of exerting
one's strength: one
is pushing down, the
other is pulling up"

.... Booker T. Washington



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